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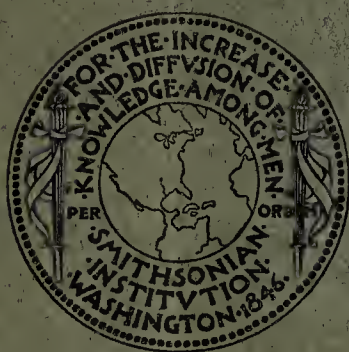
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Fifty-fifth Annual Report

of the

UREAU OF AMERICAN
ETHNOLOGY

1937-1938



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

D. C.

FIFTY-FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BUREAU OF
AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1937-1938



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON: 1939

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

M. W. STIRLING, CHIEF

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report on the field researches, office work, and other operations of the Bureau of American Ethnology during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1938, conducted in accordance with the act of Congress of June 28, 1937. The act referred to contains the following item:

American ethnology: For continuing ethnological researches among the American Indians and the natives of Hawaii, the excavation and preservation of archeologic remains under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution, including necessary employees, the preparation of manuscripts, drawings, and illustrations, the purchase of books and periodicals, and traveling expenses, \$58,730.

SYSTEMATIC RESEARCHES

During the greater part of the fiscal year, M. W. Stirling, Chief of the Bureau, was in Washington engaged in administrative duties and in preparation of various publications.

From the latter part of January until the middle of March, 1938, Mr. Stirling was in Mexico examining archeological sites and museum collections. A site in the Canton of the Tuxtlas south of Vera Cruz was selected for excavation during the winter of 1938-39.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, Dr. John R. Swanton, ethnologist, was engaged in the preparation of the final report of his researches in the interests of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission, of which he is chairman. One field expedition was undertaken in connection with this research. It was directed in the first instance to the southern part of Clarke County, Alabama, at the invitation of James Y. Brame, Jr., of Montgomery, an indefatigable student of the route of De Soto, who hoped that he had discovered the site of the old town of Mabila, where occurred a notable battle between the Spaniards and Indians on October 18, 1540. The site in question, at a place called Lower James Hammock, on the bluff above Choctaw Lake, proved to be an interesting one and specimens of certain novelty types of pottery were obtained, but the question as to its identity with Mabila is still in doubt, the evidence being rather negative. After this work was finished an attempt was made to locate other Indian town sites in the southeastern part of the county, but, aside from a very small one previously identified by Mr.

Brame, nothing was found, there being, in fact, a singular dearth of Indian remains in this county in the section where it would be natural to look for Mabila. In the southwestern part of the county, however, there is a spot to which the Indians resorted for salt, one noted on early French maps, and here a considerable collection of potsherds was made and a number of pictures of the site taken. While Dr. Swanton was engaged in this investigation, the Choctaw Hunting and Fishing Club kindly extended the use of its camp at Choctaw Bluff.

After returning to Montgomery, Dr. Swanton proceeded to Tuscaloosa and David De Jarnette, assistant to Prof. Walter S. Jones, took him to Scottsboro and afterward on a number of trips along the part of the Tennessee River valley believed to have been traversed by De Soto. It seems to be indicated rather clearly that the Spaniards crossed and recrossed this several times. Before returning to Washington Dr. Swanton attended a meeting on October 29-30 called by the De Soto Committee of the Society of the Colonial Dames of America in preparation for a celebration of the quadricentennial of the passage of the Mississippi by De Soto, and he delivered an address at one of the sessions.

Dr. Swanton has also added some further material to his large paper on the Indians of the Southeast.

In December he presided as vice-president over several sessions of Section H, American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Indianapolis.

In March he was appointed to the United States Board on Geographical Names to occupy the place made vacant by the death of J. N. B. Hewitt, and he attended the twelfth annual meeting on May 23.

Dr. Truman Michelson, ethnologist, left Washington early in July 1937 to undertake field work among the Montagnais-Naskapi Indians of the northern shore of the St. Lawrence River and vicinity. This work was made possible through a generous grant-in-aid made by the American Council of Learned Societies. He arrived at Natashquan July 12 and spent 18 days there, following which he continued his investigations at Seven Islands, Moisie, and Bersimis. Owing to the migratory habits of the Indians Dr. Michelson was able to get data not only on Indians of the localities named but also others in this region, including Mingan, St. Margeret's River, Godbout, Shelterbay, and Sheldrake. He was also able to check up his previous information on the Indians of Davis Inlet, far north on the Labrador coast; and by good fortune came in contact with an Indian of a band from the northeast corner of Lake Kaniapiskau—a band barely known to the scientific world. The principal object was to complete

a map showing the distribution and interrelations of the Cree and Montagnais-Naskapi dialects. In addition to the linguistic work which was the primary purpose of the trip, many new ethnological data were obtained, together with certain observations in physical anthropology. The remainder of the year was spent in Washington in the preparation of manuscripts and in routine work.

At the beginning of the fiscal year Dr. John P. Harrington, ethnologist, finished a comparative study of the Tano-Kiowan family of languages, a compact body of dialects which have inherited the same phonetics, grammatical peculiarities, and vocabulary, although the Tanoan branch is typically Pueblo in culture while the Kiowa branch is equally typical of the Western Plains culture. No linguistic study shows better how habitat has produced two cultures by migration from a linguistic nucleus which had perhaps originally a third culture—possibly like that of the Flatheads of the northern Rockies, from which region the linguistic progenitors of both Tanoans and Kiowans apparently came. The Tano-Kiowan situation, however, is clearer than the surprisingly similar Athapaskan situation, since there is historic information on the northern origin of the Kiowa, whereas the migration of any body of southern Athapascans from the north still remains theoretical. It is established that both the Tanoans and the southern Athapascans of the southwestern United States are of comparatively recent northern origin, at least as far as their language-transmitting ancestors are concerned.

Returning to the study of the Devils Tower, which has a bearing on the Tano-Kiowan provenience problem, Dr. Harrington was assisted materially by Newell F. Joyner, custodian of the Devils Tower National Monument, Devils Tower, Wyo., who supplied a mass of material, including maps and other data. If the Kiowans came from the somewhat far north, it is certain that their linguistic relatives, the Tanoans, did also.

Working by similar methods, Dr. Harrington also made a study of the Athapaskan peoples. Here we have a northern linguistic nucleus still extant, not of the past but of the present, and a family of languages more intimately associated with the problem of the original entry of man from Siberia into America, since if we exclude the somewhat aloof-standing Eskimo, all the territory of America nearest Asia is occupied by the Athapaskan and related Tlingit tongues.

Following up Goddard's discovery that the Kiowa-Apache-Lipan-Jicarilla form a separate language group, having shifted over-aspirated *tx* to *kh*, that is, the *x* having assimilated the *t* to its articulatory position, Thomas' recent work on the Prairie Apaches was found of interest. A considerable list of the Prairie Apaches are

known to us by name through the old Spanish historical documents of New Mexico, showing that the *kh* language was spoken by many tribes which covered a large area of the High Plains. The northernmost of these tribes is reported in old Spanish sources from what is now northeastern Colorado, only 150 miles south of the Black Hills. This takes away the element of novelty from the fact that the Kiowa-Apache joined the Kiowa in the Black Hills region about the year 1800 or earlier, and shows that the Kiowa-Apache also were merely one of the *kh* speaking tribes, typically Prairie Apaches, and not an Athapascan people en route migrating from Canada, as Goddard at first conjectured. A report was finished on the northern provenience of the Navaho and Apache.

Considerable time was also spent on a new sign language study, through Kiowa informants and other sources, bringing out additional information regarding the nature and structure of this interesting Plains Indian invention.

At the beginning of the fiscal year Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., archeologist, was conducting excavations at the Lindenmeier Site north of Fort Collins, Colo. This was a continuation of the program of investigations started in the fall of 1934 and carried on during succeeding summers. The location is one where Folsom man, one of the earliest known New World inhabitants, camped and made the weapons and tools that were used in killing and dressing the big game that constituted his main source of sustenance. Work was resumed in 1937 at the point where the 1936 activities terminated and at the end of the summer an area of some 2,800 square feet had been uncovered and numerous traces of occupation noted and studied. Several places were found where bison and other large animals had been dismembered, cooking fires lighted, and a feast enjoyed. At other places there were indications that individuals had been seated there manufacturing stone projectile points, knives, and scrapers. Many charts were drawn recording the nature of the assemblages of bones and stone implements and showing their distribution. In addition, 133 diagrams illustrating the character of the overlying deposits were prepared as the excavations progressed. These, together with the extensive notes on the work, add valuable data to the body of information on the mode of life and customs of the people. A collection of 735 specimens was obtained and among them were several new forms of knives, scrapers, and points. These broaden the knowledge relative to the general complex and nature of the material culture.

At the close of the excavating season Dr. Roberts proceeded to North Platte, Nebr., where he inspected a number of collections belonging to local residents and visited the sites where many of them

were found. Through the interest of R. R. Langford, of North Platte, he was able to see a number of locations where Folsom-type objects have been found and add to the series of notes that is being kept on the subject of Folsom distribution. From North Platte Dr. Roberts returned to Washington.

The winter and spring months were devoted to office duties. These included the study of the material obtained during the summer's excavations and the revision and completion for publication of a manuscript on archeological work done in the Whitewater District in eastern Arizona. Besides completely revising the text of this report, 15 additional plans and diagrams were drawn to augment those already prepared. This manuscript was turned over to the editor and is to appear as Bulletin 121 of the Bureau of American Ethnology. With the permission of the Chief of the Bureau and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, several short manuscripts were prepared for publication in anthropological journals and other professional papers.

Dr. Roberts left Washington on June 7, 1938, for Fort Collins, Colo., and again resumed excavations at the Lindenmeier Site. At the close of the fiscal year the diggings had been reopened and a number of specimens obtained. These included several pieces of bone that bear evidence of attempts at engraving designs on them and give some indications of a certain amount of artistic effort on the part of Folsom men.

Dr. J. H. Steward, ethnologist, remained in Washington during the greater part of the fiscal year and completed his final report on the tribes of the Great Basin-Plateau area. This was submitted to the editor and will appear as Bulletin 120 of the Bureau. In anticipation of an extended expedition to South America, Dr. Steward spent considerable time in making preparations for his projected ethnological studies in the western part of South America. On April 20 he left Washington for Ecuador in order to begin this work. The end of the fiscal year found him still in Ecuador working among the highland Indians.

EDITORIAL WORK AND PUBLICATIONS

The editing of the publications of the Bureau was continued through the year by Stanley Searles, editor.

BULLETINS ISSUED DURING THE YEAR

115. *Journal of Rudolph Friederich Kurz*, edited by J. N. B. Hewitt.
116. *Ancient Caves of the Great Salt Lake Region*, by Julian H. Steward.
117. *Historical and Ethnographical Material on the Jivaro Indians*, by M. W. Stirling.

RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION

118. An Archaeological Survey of the Norris Basin in Eastern Tennessee, by Maj. William S. Webb.

The index of Schoolcraft's Indian Tribes has been almost completed.

Work has been done on other manuscripts in the custody of the editor.

Publications distributed totaled 16,569.

LIBRARY

There has been no change in the library staff. Accessions during the fiscal year totaled 395.

Eight new exchanges were added during the year, three of these being large, important sets, one domestic and two foreign.

Library of Congress cards have been obtained for practically all of the new material received as well as for some older items. Analytical entries have been made for all periodical items in the Bureau's field received since April 1936. The depository set of Library of Congress catalog cards is now installed in working order and has proved to be a great help to the staff as well as to those in the library.

The librarian attended the meetings of the Inter-American Bibliographical and Historical Association in February 1938, and made arrangements to exchange cards for South and Central American Indian languages and folk-lore entries with Dr. Boggs, of the University of North Carolina.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Following is a summary of work accomplished by E. G. Cassedy, illustrator:

Line drawings.....	175
Maps	25
Photos retouched.....	28
Lettering jobs.....	96
Plates assembled.....	213
Drawings, etc., prepared for engraver.....	415
Diagrams and charts.....	7
Graphs	6
Mechanical drawings.....	4
Wash drawings.....	1
Total	970

Accession
No.

COLLECTIONS

144,343. One earthenware water jar from the pueblo of Acoma, and one decorated basket made by the Aleuts of southwestern Alaska. (2 specimens.)

Accession
No.

- 146,287. Three figurine pottery fragments and three figurine pottery heads from a railway cut near the Aguan River, Maloa District, north-east Honduras, Central America. Purchased from J. R. Allsopp. (6 specimens.)
- 146,639. Potsherds, arrowpoints, shell bead, and fragment of worked shell from Liberty and Dade Counties, Fla. Collected by M. W. Stirling. (6 specimens.)
- 148,063. Earthenware vessels and fragments from Ulua River, Comayagua River, and Lake Yojoa regions of Honduras, collected in 1936 by Smithsonian-Harvard University Expedition under Dr. W. D. Strong. (93 specimens.)

MISCELLANEOUS

During the course of the year information was furnished by members of the Bureau staff in reply to numerous inquiries concerning the North American Indians, both past and present, and the Mexican peoples of the prehistoric and early historic periods. Various specimens sent to the Bureau were identified and data on them furnished for their owners.

Personnel.—Dr. W. D. Strong, anthropologist, resigned August 31, 1937. J. N. B. Hewitt, ethnologist, died October 14, 1937.

Respectfully submitted.

M. W. STIRLING, *Chief.*

DR. C. G. ABBOT,

Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.





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